



P21381.A01

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Kenji KANEKO et al.

Appln. No : 09/938,663

Group Art Unit: 2859

Filed : August 27, 2001

Examiner:

For : A SURVEYING INSTRUMENT HAVING AN OPTICAL DISTANCE  
METER AND AN AUTOFOCUS SYSTEM, AND A SURVEYING  
INSTRUMENT HAVING A DETACHABLE AUTOFOCUS SYSTEM

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby call the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

U.S. Patent No. 5,872,661 to SUZUKI et al., which issued on February 16, 1999;

U.S. Patent No. 5,923,468 to TSUDA et al., which issued on July 13, 1999; and

U.S. Patent No. 6,266,911 to SUZUKI, which issued on July 31, 2001.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above materials and cite the patent documents. Copies of the above-noted documents are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

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Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following copending and commonly assigned patent applications:

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/799,618 to SHIRAI et al., entitled "An Autofocus Distance-Measuring Optical System", which was filed on March 7, 2001;

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/852,019 to SHIRAI et al., entitled "A Surveying Instrument Having a Phase-Difference Detection Type Focus Detecting Device", which was filed on May 10, 2001; and

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/852,022 to KANEKO et al., entitled "Surveying Instrument, Surveying Instrument Having AF Function, Surveying Instrument Having PF Mechanism, and Surveying Instrument Having Multiple-Focus Function", which was filed on May 10, 2001.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(iii), copies of the above-mentioned applications are attached hereto. However, the Examiner is also requested to review the file wrapper of these U.S. patent applications at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

November 27, 2001  
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Respectfully submitted,  
Kenji KANEKO et al.

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